

Application No.: 09/817,682

Atty Docket N .: JCLA5662-CIP

**In the Claims:**

Claim 1. (Currently amended) An alignment mark configuration, which is applicable on a substrate comprising a plurality of layers, the alignment mark configuration comprising:

an alignment mark on the substrate, wherein the alignment mark comprises a plurality of recesses and a spacing between the neighboring recesses is "d", wherein the recess has a width of about 2 microns to about 6 microns and the spacing "d" is in a range of about 6 microns to about 12 microns; and

a trench, wherein a spacing between the trench and the alignment mark is of a range between about 5d to about 80d.

Claim 2. (Original) The alignment mark configuration according to claim 1, wherein the recesses include a plurality of trenches formed by a shallow trench isolation fabrication process.

Claim 3. (Original) The alignment mark configuration according to claim 1, wherein the trench includes a shallow trench isolation structure.